DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [illegible] DATE 10/1/2
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

EXDIS

POL 14 VIETS

INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

(428)

Pol Region 4-1/20

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CONFIDENTIAL

45
Action DVV AJB 75 OJ IA 69 1
FE RR RUEHC
DE RUMJIR 4720 2411245
ZNY CCCCC
Info R 291059Z AUG 66
SS FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
G TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC
SP INFO RUHLHQ/CINCPAC
SAH ZEN/AMCONSUL DANANG UNN
L ZEN/AMCONSUL HUE UNN
H STATE GRNC
SAL BT
IO C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 4720
P AUGUST 29
USIA
NSC CINCPAC FOR POLAD
INR
CIA SUBJ: CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS
NSA
DOD 1. IN CENTRAL HIGHLAND PROVINCES OF PLEIKU AND DARLAC
NIC WHERE CAMPAIGNS NOW GETTING UNDERWAY, CONSIDERABLE
AID GVN ACTIVITY REPORTED IN PUBLICIZING ELECTIONS.

RSR 2. PLEIKU VIETNAMESE SEAT. PROBABLE AINNER IS PHAN DINH KHEN, MERCHANT, WHO IS ALSO VILLAGE CHIEF IN CENTRAL PORTION OF PLEIKU CITY. HE IS 43 AND CATHOLIC. OTHER POSSIBLE STRONG RUNNER IS ARVN CAPTAIN NGO THANH TUNG, 30, WHO REPORTED TO BE PERSONAL SELECTION OF II CORPS COMMANDER,

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GENERAL VINH LOC. THIRD CANDIDATE, TON THAT THANG, IS JOURNALIST AND NOT WELL KNOWN. THREE CANDIDATES WITHDREW FROM RACE, INCLUDING ARVN MAJOR WHO REPORTEDLY BACKED OFF FROM COMPETING WITH VINH LOC SELECTEE AND ONE WHO ALLEGEDLY PARTICIPATED IN RECENT STRUGGLE MOVEMENT.

3. PLEIKU MONTAGNARD SEAT. OF THREE CANDIDATES, ALL OF WHOM ARE REPORTED BY GVN OFFICIALS TO BE GOOD, LIKELY WINNER IS RAHLAN YOK, INSPECTOR IN PROVINCIAL EDUCATION SERVICE AND ONLY ONE WHO MIGHT ALREADY BE KNOWN IN PROVINCE. OTHER CANDIDATES ARE NAY BLIM, CIVIL SERVANT, AND ARVN ASPIRANT KSOR BUM. RAHLAN BEO, WHO HAD BEEN DEPUTY PROVINCE CHIEF FOR MONTAGNARD AFFAIRS FOR 12 YEARS UNTIL ONE MONTH AGO, WITHDREW BECAUSE, HE CONTENDS, PROVINCE CHIEF AND BEO'S SUCCESSOR PUT PRESSURE ON ELECTORS. BEO APPARENTLY POPULAR

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AND WOULD HAVE PROBABLY WON RACE EASILY, BUT REPORTEDLY HE NOT ESPECIALLY COMPETENT.

4. DARLAC VIETNAMESE SEAT. RACE APPEARS TO BE BETWEEN HOANG CONG HOA AND NGUYEN HUU XAO, NEITHER OF WHOM LIKELY TO GENERATE WIDESPREAD ENTHUSIASM. HOA IS 39, TEACHER, MEMBER OF PROVINCIAL COUNCIL, CATHOLIC, AND, ACCORDING VIETNAMESE

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OBSERVERS, MOST CAPABLE OF THREE CANDIDATES. XAO, 40, ANCESTOR WORSHIPPER, IS HAMLET CHIEF IN BAN ME THUOT AND, ACCORDING SAME OBSERVERS, HAS SOME MINUS FACTORS IN HIS PAST TO COMPENSATE FOR HIS FOLLOWING IN BAN ME THUOT. THIRD CANDIDATE, BUI XUAN HINH, IS ALSO ANCESTOR WORSHIPPER, BUSINESSMAN, WITHOUT PARTICULAR QUALIFICATIONS. ONE CANDIDATE DISQUALIFIED BY PROVINCIAL ELECTORAL COMMITTEE ON GROUNDS PRO-VC ACTIVITY. ONE ARVN OFFICER "WITHDREW" BUT APPARENTLY HAD FILED TOO LATE AFTER BEING DESIGNATED BY VINH LOC TO RUN.

5. DARLAC MONTAGNARD SEAT. Y BLIENG HMOK IS PROBABLY BEST KNOWN OF THREE CANDIDATES WHO HAVE FILED SO FAR. HE IS VICE CHAIRMAN OF PORVINCIAL COUNCIL AND FORMER DEPUTY PROVINCE CHIEF FOR MONTAGNARD AFFAIRS. HOWEVER, HE IS ALSO REPORTEDLY DISLIKED BY LARGE PROPORTION OF MONTAGNARDS BECAUSE OF (A) ALLEGED CORRUPT DEALINGS IN WHICH HE LITERALLY SWINDLED MONTAGNARDS, AND (B) OTHER CANDIDATES ARE Y YOK AYUN, HEALTH WORKER, WHO HAS NO OUTSTANDING QUALIFICATIONS, AND ARVN CAPT. Y YEN MLO WHO REPORTEDLY VERY

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COMPETENT. SINCE DARLAC IS SEAT OF FULRO MOVEMENT, ANY FULRO CANDIDATE WHO SUBSEQUENTLY FILES WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY TAKE RACE.

6. ANTI-ELECTION ACTIVITY. BOTH VIET CONG AND BUDDHISTS HAVE BEEN ACTIVE. VC HAVE ANNOUNCED IN PLEIKU THAT THEY WILL ATTACK AMERICAN ESTABLISHMENTS AND RESIDENCES IN ORDER DISTRACT SECURITY FORCES FROM ELECTION RESPONSIBILITIES. BUDDHIST ANTI-VOTE PROPAGANDA HAS BEEN WIDELY REPORTED BUT VIEN HOA DAO DOES NOT HAVE SIGNIFICANT FOLLOWING IN HIGHLANDS. AMERICAN AND VIETNAMESE OBSERVERS BELIEVE BOYCOTT WILL BE ALMOST COMPLETELY INEFFECTIVE. LODGE

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